

INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF SEAFDEC

INTRODUCTION

The information program of SEAFDEC has expanded rapidly since the first Seminar on Fisheries Information Science in Southeast Asia, organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, in Bangkok from 16 to 20 August 1982. Several countries in the Southeast Asian region are now cooperating with SEAFDEC to promote an effective transfer of fishery and aquaculture information both within and outside the region.

This paper presents the progress of the activities of SEAFDEC concerning the information programs which include the publication, information, and audio-visual programs being carried out by the SEAFDEC Departments as well as the information projects of the Secretariat and the Aquaculture Department, in cooperation with IDRC, i.e., the Southeast Asian Fisheries Information System (SEAFIS) and the Brackishwater Aquaculture Information System (BRAIS).

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SEAFDEC DEPARTMENTS

In general, each Department of SEAFDEC carries out an information program as part of its administrative function. Requests for information concerning its activities such as publications, training programs, etc., are dealt with by the respective Department and/or the Secretariat.

General information on the activities of the Center is provided quarterly to the general public through the SEAFDEC Newsletter, compiled and issued by the Secretariat in close cooperation with the three Departments. The current subscribers to the Newsletter include all member countries of SEAFDEC and ASEAN, and non-member countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and Africa.

In addition, the Secretariat has compiled and published the annual official reports on the operation of the Center, the reports of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the SEAFDEC Council meetings as well as the annual fishery statistical bulletin for the South China Sea area. Special publications on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia are prepared and published by the Secretariat as and when appropriate.

The Training Department has been issuing several series of technical documents and reports since 1975. The technical series include Text and Reference Books (TD/TRB series), Current Technical Papers (TD/CTP), Cruise and Practice Reports (TD/CPR), Joint Research Papers with Thai agencies (TD/JRT), Special Publications (TP/SP), Research Papers (TD/RES), Miscellaneous Papers (TD/MP), and Circulars (TD/CIR). The reports of various technical meetings organized by the Department have been published in the TD/RP series since 1968. However, only the TRB, RES, SP, CIR and RP series continue to be published in the interest of economy. To date, 196 titles of these documents and reports were published by the Department. In addition, 83 titles of lecture notes were published for use as in-house documents for training courses. The updated list of these publications was compiled by the Secretariat in November 1988.

As for the Marine Fisheries Research Department, technical documents published include a laboratory manual on analytical methods and procedures for fish and fish products; an inventory of fish products in Southeast Asia; a handbook on processing of surimi and fish jelly products; a report on the use of trawl by-catch for fish jelly products; and the proceedings of the Seminar on Development of Fish Products in Southeast Asia, held in Singapore in October 1987. MFRD also prepares and distributes its Library Accessions List to all interested parties for information.

As regards the Aquaculture Department, the expansion of the information and publications program led to the establishment of the Information Division of the Department in December 1986. This Division is assigned to undertake a well-coordinated system of information gathering, processing and dissemination in order to ensure effective transfer of aquaculture technologies developed at AQD to the fishfarmers and to other specialized users, as well as to intensify the exchange of information on aquaculture research among SEAFDEC Member Countries and with other organizations/agencies.

Most of the AQD scientific reports have been published in international scientific journals. The Collected Reprints of these scientific publications from 1976 to 1986 was published by the Department in 1988. Those of 1987 are being compiled and will be issued in 1989. Some specific technical reports, extension manuals and training manuals however were published and issued by the Department. AQD also issues a bi-monthly Aqua Farm News and a quarterly SEAFDEC Asian Aquaculture on current activities of the Department. In addition, AQD published the proceedings of the technical meetings organized by the Department such as Aquaculture Engineering (1977), Pen and Cage Culture of Fish (1979), Advances in Milkfish Biology and Culture (1983); Culture of Penaeid Prawns/Shrimps (1984); Prawn Industry Development in the Philippines (1984) and Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (1987). It is encouraging to learn that the proceedings of the 1st international conference on the culture of penaeid prawns/shrimps were translated into Japanese and published as the Japanese edition in 1988.

INFORMATION PROJECTS OF THE SEAFDEC DEPARTMENTS

The first information project of SEAFDEC was the Southeast Asian Fishery Information Service (SAFIS), which was implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, in cooperation with IDRC, from April 1982 to March 1986. The objective of this project was to promote an effective linkage between fishery extension officers and small-scale fishermen/fishfarmers in the region by preparing and providing extension literature according to their requirements. By the time the project closed, SAFIS had

collected, stored and disseminated some 800 fishery extension materials from various sources and prepared 40 manuals on fishing technology and aquaculture. In addition the revised Directory of Fishery Scientists and Technologists in Southeast Asia and a Handbook for Fishery Extension Workers in Southeast Asia were published. SAFIS also formulated a network of fishery information among the Southeast Asian countries and other organizations which formed the basic structure for its successors, the SEAFIS and BRAIS projects. As noted by one collaborating organization, INFOFISH, "the SAFIS Manuals have proved quite popular with users of our Technical Information Centre, especially in the field of aquaculture. It is sad that these final publications mark the close of the SAFIS program".

The current information projects of SEAFDEC are the Southeast Asian Fisheries Information System (SEAFIS) and the Brackishwater Aquaculture Information System (BRAIS), which are supported by IDRC. These two systems are closely related but differ in their approach. Both systems however aim to provide for fishery scientists and aquaculturists a convenient and updated source of information on fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

1. SEAFIS Project

The SEAFIS concept was first submitted to the Seminar on Fisheries Information Science in Southeast Asia in August 1982. The overall objective of SEAFIS is to contribute to fisheries development by facilitating the exchange of and access to fishery information and data, as well as to share available information resources and experiences within a framework of regional cooperation. The Seminar endorsed the concept and recommended that SEAFDEC serve as a regional coordinating center to promote the establishment of referral units in the region concerned with various aspects of fishery information.

The SEAFIS project was started by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, in cooperation with IDRC, in April 1984. During its first phase, the program concentrated on developing the national networks for fishery information and coordinating these activities with other organizations, both within and outside the region. Specifically, SEAFIS aims to provide a facility which can act as an impetus to decision-making and planning for fisheries and aquaculture development. It also acts as a regional focal point and makes available pertinent information on fisheries and related disciplines or technologies. It is designed to collect, store, analyse and disseminate such information and provide access to current regional fisheries information as well as to serve as the Southeast Asian regional input center for the FAO Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS) for a broader dissemination of fishery and aquaculture information at global level.

In implementing the SEAFIS project, it is recognized that the fishery libraries existing in the region are at different levels of development and that there is a lack of coordination not only among the countries but also within the countries themselves. Since SEAFIS is not in a position to assist all libraries, as it would wish to do if it could, the assistance to national fishery information centers provided under the program concentrates on the development of a selected library in each country. As an example, the Workshop on the Thai Fisheries Information System was organized in Bangkok from 12 to 14 December 1984 to discuss the arrangements for establishing a Thai fishery information network with its center at the NIFI Library. The development of this network, as well as computerized technology for the SEAFIS acquisition and retrieval system, then served as a pattern for other networks in the SEAFIS and BRAIS systems.

At present, the national fishery information networks in Southeast Asia that have been established and/or strengthened with the assistance or cooperation of SEAFIS, are:

1. Thai Fisheries Information System (THAIFIS), with a focal point at the National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI) of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand;
2. Indonesian Fisheries Information System (INFIS), with a focal point at the Directorate General of Fisheries, Jakarta, Indonesia;
3. Philippine Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (PASFIS), with a focal point at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, Iloilo City, Philippines; and
4. Malaysian Fisheries Information System (MALFIS), in collaboration with the Fisheries Management Information System (FMIS) of the Fisheries Division, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In addition, SEAFIS, through the Secretariat, also cooperates closely with the SEAFDEC Departments and other organizations/agencies concerned with fisheries information in the region. The interrelationships between SEAFIS and national/international organizations/agencies are given in Annex 1.

The development of SEAFIS is contributing to the establishment of the regional data bases in the region for fisheries and aquaculture. In order to standardize the methodology employed in this system as well as to facilitate the information flow within the network and among the national focal points collaborating with SEAFIS, a regional training course in SEAFIS methodology was organized by SEAFIS, in Bangkok, from 22 April to 2 May 1986. SEAFIS also assisted in training national network personnel, e.g., in Thailand in July and September 1985, in Indonesia in November 1985, in the Philippines in October 1985 and December 1986, and in Malaysia in 1986.

It is envisaged that the selected national focal points and collaborating agencies in the SEAFIS network will continue to collect the current fishery and aquaculture literature published or prepared in their respective countries and make it available to SEAFIS for compilation and computerization. The compiled bibliographic records will be published as a national fishery bibliography (e.g., Thai Fisheries Bibliography 1981-1985 published by SEAFIS in December 1986) or a regional bibliography on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia. The first regional bibliography covering the 1985 literature was issued by SEAFIS in November 1988. The second volume of Thai Bibliography (1976-1980) and the 1986-1987 regional bibliographies are expected to be published in 1989.

2. BRAIS Project

The Brackishwater Aquaculture Information System (BRAIS) was started by the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, in cooperation with IDRC, in March 1984, to serve as a regional network of library/information centers in support of research and development on tropical aquaculture, with particular emphasis on brackishwater aquaculture.

The overall objective of the BRAIS project is to provide for the training of personnel and the organization of a specialized information center for brackishwater aquaculture at AQD.

During its first phase of operation (March 1984 to April 1989), BRAIS established a network of aquaculture information centers in Southeast Asian countries, namely: the Brackishwater Aquaculture Development Center at Jepara, Indonesia; the Fisheries Research Institute in Penang, Malaysia; the Fishery Science Society of Thailand in Bangkok; and the Philippine center for BRAIS at AQD, Tigbauan, Iloilo. These centers assist the Project in collecting and disseminating aquaculture literature in the region. The information obtained has been computerized and

compiled into specific bibliographic series. To date, twelve issues of the Brackishwater Aquaculture Bibliography were published in 1984 and 1985. Brackishwater Aquaculture Abstracts succeeded the Bibliography in 1985, with 18 issues printed from 1985 to 1988.

Specific bibliographies compiled and published by BRAIS include: (1) Sugpo and other Philippine penaeids; (2) Mud Crab Bibliography; (3) Seabass Abstracts; (4) Mussel Abstracts; (5) Grouper Abstracts; and (6) Milkfish Abstracts. In addition, the state-of-the-art review on the aquaculture of siganids was published in 1987. Reviews on tiger prawn and grouper culture are being printed by the Project. BRAIS also issues the BRAIS Newsletter and provides information on aquaculture upon request.

More details on the BRAIS project of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department are given in a separate working paper (SEC/SEM.89/WP 4)

AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS

The use of modern audio-visual technology to assist in the training and information programs was pioneered by the Aquaculture Department in producing the video programs on aquaculture technology in the early 1980s. Documentaries consisting of 10 to 20-minute video programs on various aquaculture technologies or practices were produced to promote current awareness and stimulate interest among the public to enhance their adoption of such technologies or practices.

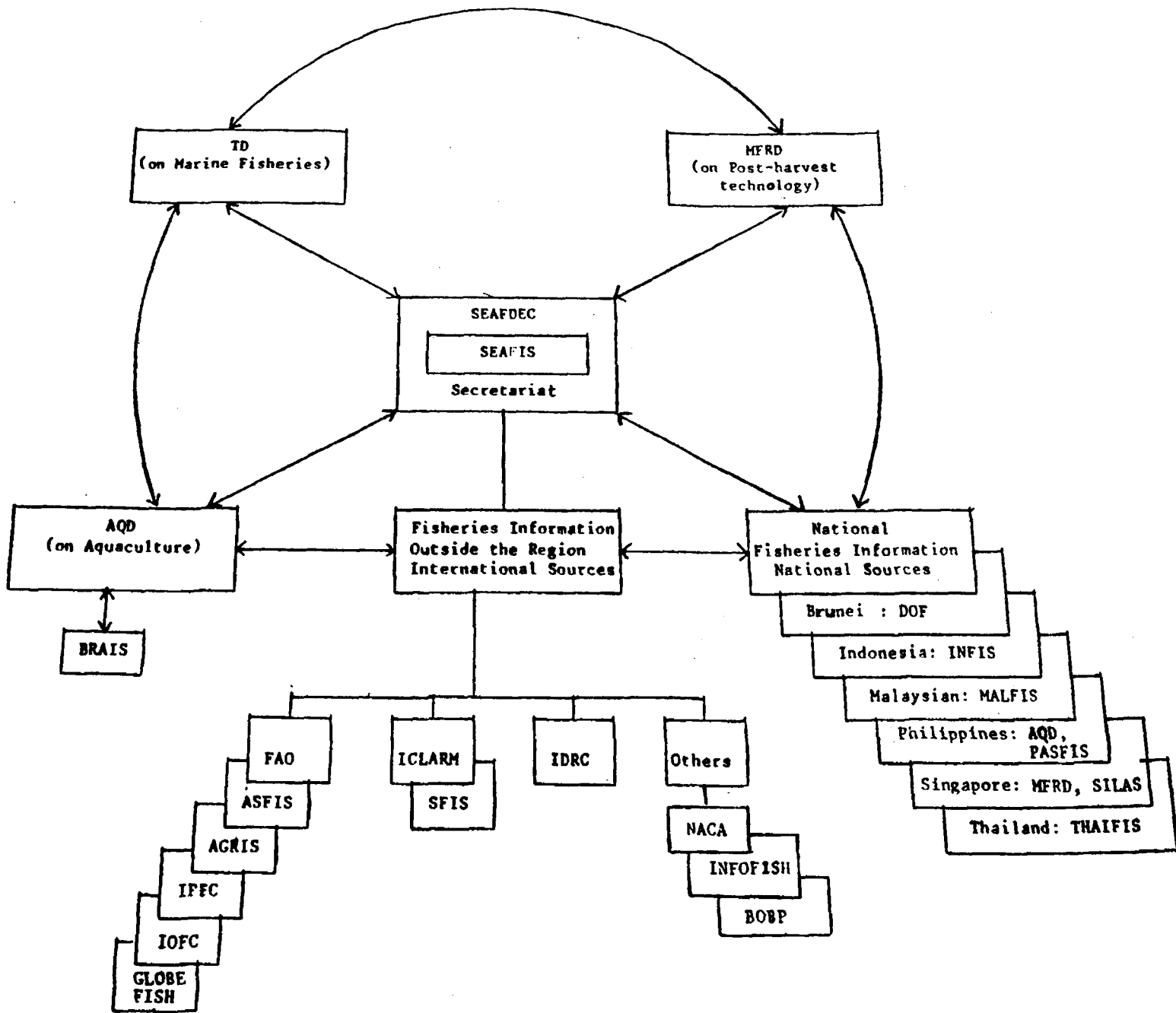
With the establishment of the Training Aids Unit in the Training Department in 1985, an audio-visual studio was set up in the Department in 1986 to produce video programs for training and information purposes. To date, the Training Department has produced light video programs on the general activities of the Department, the regional training courses for fishery extension

officers, shellfish culture in Thailand and marine fishing technology. These video cassettes are released for use by the national training institutes in the SEAFDEC Member Countries as part of the external training program offered by the Department. The list of the video programs produced by SEAFDEC is given in Annex 2.

SUMMARY

The information programs of SEAFDEC have been rapidly expanded since the early 1980s in response to the increasing need of Member Countries for information concerning fisheries and aquaculture development in the region. Technical publications are compiled, published and distributed by the SEAFDEC Departments. The list of the publications issued from 1968 to 1988 was published by the Secretariat and is available upon request. The Secretariat also issues the Newsletter and the official reports of the Center as well as other relevant publications such as the annual regional bibliography on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia, the annual Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the South China Sea Area, special technical publications and others.

Since 1984 SEAFDEC has implemented two information projects, namely SEAFIS and BRAIS, which serve as regional information sources for fisheries and aquaculture in the region. It is expected that SEAFDEC will continue to play a leading role in the exchange of fishery information with other organizations at both the regional and global levels to fulfil the needs for updated information by all users. In addition, SEAFDEC will continue the production of audio-visual materials, such as video programs, posters, and manuals on the current technology employed in fisheries and aquaculture, to assist national training programs and to promote current awareness for further development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.



Interrelationships between SEAFDEC and national/international organizations/agencies under the SEAFIS project

LIST OF THE VIDEO CASSETTES PRODUCED BY SEAFDEC*

1. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (TD, 31.30 min).
2. A Decade of Aquaculture Research and Development (AQD, 21 min.)
3. Binangonan Research Station (AQD, 11.15 min.)
4. Leganes Research Station (AQD, 11 min.)
5. Developing the Mollusc Farming Industry for Coastal Villages and small-scale fishermen in the Philippines.
6. Mollusc Culture in Thailand (TD, 17 min.)
7. Milkfish Fry Collection, Handling and Storage (AQD, 16.30 min.)
8. Milkfish Fry Acclimation and Fingerling Production in Freshwater (AQD, 10.30 min.)
9. Milkfish Fingerling Productions (AQD, 10.20 min.)
10. Milkfish from the Wild to the Farm (AQD, 16 min.)
11. Milkfish Culture Systems (AQD, 10.20 min.)
12. Tilapia Cage Farming (AQD, 7.12 min.)
13. Tilapia Cage Farming for Lake Shore Communities (AQD, 8.12 min.)
14. Farming the Tiger Shrimp (AQD, 20 min.)
15. Brackishwater Pond Preparation for Prawn Farming (AQD, 6.47 min.)

* These video cassettes available in PAL/VSH system; AQD video cassettes also available in NTSC/β system

16. Water and Soil Analysis for Brackishwater Ponds (AQD, 21 min.)
17. Proximate Analysis of Nutrients in Fish Feed (AQD, 21.13 min.)
18. Dissolved Oxygen Determination in Freshwater Bodies (AQD, 4.32 min.)
19. Determining Ammonia Nitrogen from Water Samples (AQD, 4 min.)
20. Biology of *Penaeus monodon* (AQD, 12 min.)
21. External and Internal Anatomy of *Penaeus monodon* Fab. (AQD, 16.40 min.)
22. Prawn Hatchery and Nursery Operations (AQD, 10 min.)
23. Culturing of Microorganisms for Feed (AQD, 12 min.)
24. Prawn Feed Preparation (AQD, 7 min.)
25. Prawn Processing (AQD, 14 min.)
26. Limnological Studies in Laguna Lake (AQD, 10 min.)
27. NACA-RLCP (AQD, 14 min.)
28. World Food Day 1986 (AQD, 11.23 min.)
29. Trawl Fisheries (TD, 30 min.)
30. Purse-seine Fisheries (TD, 31 min.)
31. Squid Fisheries (TD, 12 min.)
32. Line Fisheries (TD, 26 min.)
33. Fifth Regional Training Course for Fishery Extension Officers (TD, 20 min.)
34. Sixth Regional Training Course for Fishery Extension Officers (TD, 30 min.)
35. Eighth Regional Training Course for Fishery Extension Officers (TD, 19 min.)

36. Ninth Regional Training Course for Fishery Extension Officers
(TD, in Preparation)
37. Gill Net Fisheries (TD, in Preparation)
38. Collapsible Crab Trap (TD, in Preparation)